

with the rest of mankind and isolated from each other, while they were each subjected to the discipline and invariable rule of traditional folkways which covered all social interests except the interferences of a central political authority, which perpetrated tyranny in its own interest. The consequence has been that Japan, China, and India have each been molded into a firm, stable, and well-defined unit group, having a character strongly marked both actively and passively. The governing classes of Japan have, within fifty years, voluntarily abandoned their traditional mores, and have adopted those of the Occident, while it does not appear that they have lost their inherited ethos. The case stands alone in history and is a cause of amazement. In the war with Russia, in 1904, this people showed what a group is capable of when it has a strong ethos. They understand each other; they act as one man; they are capable of discipline to the death. Our western tacticians have had rules for the percentage of loss which troops would endure, standing under fire, before breaking and running. The rule failed for the Japanese. They stood to the last man. Their prowess at Port Arthur against the strongest fortifications, and on the battlefields of Manchuria, surpassed all record. They showed what can be done in the way of concealing military and naval movements when every soul in the population is in a voluntary conspiracy not to reveal anything. These traits belong to a people which has been trained by generations of invariable mores. It is apparently what the mediaeval church wanted to introduce in Europe, but the Japanese have got it without selfish tyranny of the ruling persons and classes. Of course, it admits of no personal liberty, and the

consequences of  
introducing occidental notions of liberty into it  
have yet to be  
seen. "The blacksmith squats at his anvil wielding  
a hammer  
such as no western smith could use without long  
practice. The  
carpenter pulls instead of pushing his  
extraordinary plane and  
saw. Always the left is the right side, and the  
right side the  
wrong. Keys must be turned, to open or close a  
lock, in what  
we are accustomed to think the wrong direction."  
"The swords-  
man, delivering his blow with both hands, does not  
pull the blade  
towards him in the moment of striking, but pushes  
it from him.